

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 55

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45—Relative to United States Travel Rally Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 17, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 45, Benoit. United States Travel Rally Day.

This measure would recognize May 12, 2009, as United States Travel Rally Day and call upon Californians to observe this day by rallying to demonstrate the importance of travel and tourism to the economy.

WHEREAS, The United States Senate and House of Representatives designated the week beginning on the second Saturday of May of each year, beginning in 1984, as "National Travel and Tourism Week," and elected officials are invited to issue proclamations to raise awareness of the value of travel to the welfare of the nation; and

WHEREAS, Travel and tourism play a critical role in the nation's economy as one of the largest industries in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Travel is among one of the top 10 industries in 49 of the states in terms of employment, and one of every eight jobs in the United States is created directly or indirectly by travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Domestic and international visitors spent \$97.6 billion in California destinations in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The nearly \$100 billion in spending supported 924,000 jobs and accounted for combined earnings of \$30.6 billion; and

WHEREAS, Travel spending also generated \$2.2 billion in local taxes and \$3.6 billion in state taxes in 2008; and

WHEREAS, There were 338 million domestic visitors who traveled to and through California in 2008, of which 86 percent were California residents; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 13.4 million international visitors traveled to California in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The recession has severely impacted the travel and tourism industry with the recent downturn, beginning in the closing months of 2008, interrupting 74 consecutive months of positive growth; and

WHEREAS, Purchases of travel and tourism-related goods and services by international visitors in the United States decreased by more than 13 percent in February 2009 compared to February 2008, representing a \$10.1 billion loss; and

WHEREAS, Cancellations of business travel, meetings, events, and conventions from just 20 percent of the lodging industry exceeded \$220 million nationally during January and February 2009; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes May 12, 2009, as United States Travel Rally Day, and calls upon all Californians to observe this day by participating in appropriate rallies and other activities to raise awareness of the vital role of travel and tourism to Californians and the state's economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.